



# Christmas Eve

## LESSONS & CAROLS

*Baby Jesus by Mike Moyers*

# THE Celebration OF Worship

### Prelude

Silent Night  
O Holy Night  
*Vinay Thomas, baritone*

Paul Laubengayer  
arr. Mark Hayes

### Welcome

**\*Lighting of the Christ Candle** (3:00p.m. - The Botkin Family / 8:00 p.m. - Jeff and Debby Underwood)

**Leader:** In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?  
Where do we start?

**People:** Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace.  
Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love.

**Leader:** We begin with love, for surely love knows your name.  
Today, in addition to the candles of hope,  
peace, joy, and love, we light the Christ Candle.  
For surely God is in this place. Surely the Spirit is near.  
Surely love knows our name.

**People:** May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born.  
A light shines in the darkness, and  
the darkness cannot overcome it.

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

2. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (*Refrain*)
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (*Refrain*)

\*Prayer for Christmas Eve

Loving Christ,  
when the shepherds heard that you were born,  
they dropped their things and ran. They trusted the angels' invitation.  
They believed that your love came for them.  
We wish that we were more like that.  
Instead, somewhere between the angels' song and the manger,  
we tend to lose our way. We doubt ourselves. We doubt the invitation.  
We doubt that love could know our names.  
Remind us that your love is personal and specific.  
Remind us that the good news of this day is for us.  
With hope we sing, we pray, and we run to see love born at the manger. Amen.

Anthem

Sweetest Music, Softly Stealing

Elaine Hagenberg

Sweetest music, softly stealing through the silence of the night; to the  
Shepherds, now revealing, Christ is born the Son of light.  
Glory unto God, the Father who has sent His only Son.  
That He may all the nations gather round His feet and make them one.  
Shepherds, to the stable hasten, there your Savior Christ is born,  
Son of Mary lowly maiden, on this first Christmas morn!  
He from highest heaven descending comes on earth your woes to heal,  
that your every want attending, Love of God He may reveal.

~ G. W. Brindley, text

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Prayer of Illumination

### A Lesson from Old Testament

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

### Hymn No. 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
  2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel. *(Refrain)*
  3. Hail the heaven-born  
Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
*(Refrain)*
- Refrain:*  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

### A Lesson from the Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

### Anthem

Away in a Manger

arr. Mack Wilberg

### A Lesson from the Gospel

Luke 2:15-20

### Meditation

A Christmas Meditation

Jo Forrest

### Offertory Anthem

All Praise to Thee

Elaine Hagenberg

All praise to Thee, eternal God, Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,  
dost take a manger for Thy throne, while worlds are Thine alone. Alleluia.  
Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light,  
to make us in the realms divine, like Thine own angels 'round Thee shine.  
Alleluia. A little Child, Thou art our Guest that weary ones may rest.  
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth, that we may rise to heaven from earth.  
Alleluia. Amen.

~ Martin Luther (1524), text

### Bringing the Light Into the World

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

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As the worship leaders walk down the aisle, pausing at each pew to light the end candle, offer the light to your neighbor and greet them with "the peace of Christ be with you." After all the candles are lit, the congregation will join in singing "Silent Night." During the last verse, carefully raise your candle aloft. Please extinguish your candle following the benediction and place them in the receptacles in the narthex as you leave.

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- 1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, 'round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!"
- 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
- 4 Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

Away in a Manger, *final verse*

arr. Wilberg

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever,  
and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

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**Leading in worship:** Jo Forrest, Laura Bentley, Jim Burns, Christine Hestwood, and the Chancel Choir

**Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church**, a community of faith committed to bringing people to Christ through worshiping God, teaching the faith, and serving in mission. We grow together in the trials and joys of life with laughter and mutual support.

At Westminster, children and families are essential members of our community, and we encourage all ages to participate in worship. As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, we invite your family to wiggle, sing, dance, color, and make a joyful noise with the congregation. Coloring sheets and a family restroom can be found in the lobby.

If you'd like a little more space to wiggle while you worship, the Wiggle Room provides a safe space for families to step away and listen to the service. Our ushers would be happy to direct you to the Wiggle Room.

Whether you are visiting for the first time or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you join us on this holy evening. We invite you to return often and consider making this your church home.

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## Christmas Eve Loose Offering

Tuesday, December 24 | All services | Sanctuary



The loose offering from all services on Christmas Eve will go to [The Lazarus Fund of Pittsburgh Presbyterian](#). The Lazarus Fund assists our neighbors who have short-term economic difficulties and need help with rent, mortgage payments, and paying utilities.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chancel Guild wishes to thank all who contributed Christmas poinsettias. They add greatly to the beauty of our church. Poinsettias may be picked up on December 24 following the 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. services, December 26 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., or December 27 between 9:00 a.m. and noon.

### *The Work of Christmas*

By Howard Thurman

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost, to heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations;  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music from the heart.*

① ONE SERVICE  
SUNDAY

Sunday, December 29 | 10:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

The service will blend both traditional and contemporary styles. It will also be livestreamed.

## OUR PRIORITIES

LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

Accept **EVERYONE  
WITH LOVE**  
Seek **JUSTICE, WITHOUT  
EXCEPTION**

Inspire **WONDER AND  
MEANING**  
Energize **THE NEXT  
GENERATION**



# 2024

## *Christmas Memorial/Honoree Poinsettias*

### Given by:

Barbara & Richard Allwes and Family

Bacheson and Platt Families

Fritz & Linda Balsinger

Bea Bartko

John Baumiller

Berrott Family

David E. Berry

Jane & Rae Burton

Elizabeth Camody

Von & Suzanne Campanella

The Clendaniel Family

R. Loraine Dellaria

Lynn Cummings Dempsey

Jay Descalzi

Susan Fitzsimmons

Fitzsimmons Family

Jo & Hamish Forrest

Drew Hauth Family

The Heilman Family

Bev Hilty

### In Memory of:

Parents, grandparents

Flo & Bob Lawrence

Loved Ones

David R. Bartko

William & Mary Baumiller

Robert Shaw  
Ron & Ruth Berrott

Linda Rae Berry

Loved Ones

Katharine B. & Clinton G. Denny

Loved Ones

Martha Clendaniel  
George & Carrie Clendaniel  
Clarence & Hilda Welch  
Virginia Welch  
Stephen Welch

Howard & Anne Richey  
Mary Jane Richey Lonick

Loved Ones

Joan Descalzi

Gilbert Fitzsimmons

Rev. Dr. Gilbert J. Fitzsimmons

Evelyn Preuninger  
Jack & Margaret Forrest

Jane & Chuck Hauth

Donna & Dick Heilman

David Hilty



## Given by:

The James C. Ickes Jr. Family

Janet Kiesling

Catherine Kramer

The Krock Family

Ted & Sara Kyle

Marilyn Lindstrom

Heather Loos

Bill & Maureen Ludwig

Marge & Frank McCabe

Tim & Jane McConnell

Charlotte McDaniel

Joni & Ruth McMillen

Sandra Nicklas

Andie & Bob Noah

Ruth O'Brien

Keith & Kris Overstreet

Laura & Steve Pasky

Hedy & George Pitcairn

James, John & Aki Roberts

Bill & Denise Rost

Elizabeth (Pat) Schofield

Harry Serene

Sandy Shanahan

The Simon Family

Lois Singleton

Tammy Singleton-English

Peter & Joan Stephans

## In Memory of:

James & Emma Ickes  
Harry & Virginia Simmons  
Samuel Ickes

Raymond F. Kiesling

Jacquelyn A. Allridge

Ruth & George C. Krock  
Betty & Dan Heiple

Freda Kyle

Carl Lindstrom

Loved Ones

Jack O'Brien  
Bill & Christine Ludwig

Adrian & Betty Oskam  
Frank & Eileen McCabe

Parents, Ruth & Bill McConnell  
Sister, Janice McConnell

Parents and Grandparents

Francis & Lillian McMillen

Heather & Luke McCleary, parents

Our Loving Parents

Jack O'Brien

Parents, Robert & Vivian Overstreet & Jerry Friebis

Family members who have passed

Grace & Edward Streets  
Kathryn & George Pitcairn Sr.

John M. & Marilyn S. Roberts  
Jane F. Skutt

In loving memory of those gone before us.

Jane Wallace & Lucille Fitzsimmons

Linda Serene and Our Parents

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Bill Singleton, husband  
Ameila Kelly, mother

William Singleton, father  
Amelia Kelly, grandmother

Parents and Grandparents

-continued

## Given by:

Mark & Kerry Swaney

Bonnie Thompson

Tim & Sandy Thompson

Susan & John VanCleve

Joan E. Watson

Karen Williams

## In Memory of:

Peter & David Swaney

Loved Ones

John Varoscak

Our Parents

Dorothy, Thomas & John Watson

Parents, Paul and Marthe Haupt  
Gregg Yeager

## Given by

Anonymous

David E. Berry

John & Sue Free

Meredith, Katie Jaime, and Eva Kladakis

Bill & Denise Rost

## In Honor of:

The Rev. Dr. Jo Forrest

The Rev. Laura Bentley

Scott, Mark, Suzanne, Ken, Jennifer, Zach, and Eli Berry

Luca Mizzi

R. Loraine Dellaria

In loving honor of our families

## STAFF PROGRAM/MINISTRY CONTACTS

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